



# St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
May 7, 2023

## Parish Mission

We are one Church: loving Jesus, serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

## Parish Vision

We are a vibrant Catholic church serving a diverse community in a safe and welcoming environment where we care for all people along their faith journey.

## Core Values

Discipleship • Hospitality  
Serving • Worship

## Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.,  
3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

## Weekday Masses

Monday 6:30 a.m.  
Tuesday 6:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 6:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m.  
Thursday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.  
Friday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday 6:30 a.m.

## Confessions

First Friday of month 12:00 noon  
Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
or by appointment

## Diocesan Development Fund

The Diocesan Development Fund Campaign (DDF) is the annual campaign for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau and today is **DDF Sunday!** The funds raised through this annual campaign advance the diocese's mission through a host of ministries that assist families, parishes, and the diocese as a whole. DDF is vital to the life of the Church in southern Missouri. If you have not already done so, please complete and return your DDF pledge card today. For online donations, simply go to [www.dioscg.org](http://www.dioscg.org) and follow the prompts or use the QR code printed here. Transactions are totally secure.



This year St. Vincent's parish goal is \$285,000 with a participation goal of 600 households. To date St. Vincent parishioners have given \$79,420.00 (27.9%) toward the goal. 123 families (20.5% of donor goal) have responded so far with a pledge of prayer and money. Thank you!

For more information about the Diocesan Development Fund, a video is available to view on the diocesan website.

*God of all goodness, source of all blessings, open our hearts to receive Your love, and strengthen our efforts to build up Your Church in southern Missouri.*

*Help us to be good and faithful stewards of the gifts You have given to us. Guide us as we discover new ways to serve You in serving our neighbor.*

*Bless all those who participate in the DDF Campaign. May we share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure as true disciples in our One Church, from East to West: Loving, Serving, and Sharing Jesus.*

**Amen**

"DO NOT LET YOUR  
**HEARTS**  
BE TROUBLED."

John 14:1

1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701  
573-335-7667 • Fax 573-335-0034 • [www.svcape.com](http://www.svcape.com)  
Serving the Catholic Community since April 9, 1836

## • Mass Intentions •

### Monday, May 8

6:30 am John Montgomery ☩

### Tuesday, May 9

6:30 am Frank Hahn ☩

### Wednesday, May 10 St. John of Avila

6:30 am Henry and Kathleen Himmelberg ☩

5:15 pm Living and Deceased Members of the McMeel and Ruga Families

### Thursday, May 11

6:30 am Tim and Lori Powderly (living)

8:00 am Don Koehler ☩

Graduation Mass

### Friday, May 12 Sts. Nereus and Achilleus

6:30 am Irene Prost ☩

8:00 am Dotty Wencewicz and Family (living)

### Saturday, May 13 Our Lady of Fatima

6:30 am Reverend Joseph L. Schacht ☩

5:00 pm Jeanette Dohogne ☩

### Sunday, May 14 Sixth Sunday of Easter

7:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Women's Council

9:00 am Fred and Connie Biondini (living)

10:45 am Mary Kiblinger ☩

3:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family (Bilingual)

## • Prayer Requests •

Please remember the sick, the hospitalized, and those who care for them. Pray also for homebound St. Vincent parishioners.

## Mission Trip Fundraiser

This summer, 44 Notre Dame Regional High School students will attend the annual Joan Strohmeier Summer Mission Trip to Tuba City, Arizona. While there on two Indian reservations, the students will perform work projects, hold prayer services, and be enlightened by different cultural experiences. This area of the country is very poor and the students will work hard.

To help offset the cost of the trip (\$975 per student), students will be in the gathering area after Masses next weekend, **May 13 - 14**, selling raffle tickets for the Notre Dame "Bulldrop." The drop will feature 3 foot squares costing \$20 each and will be held on June 4 at Notre Dame. Past winners have won over \$5,000!

Please consider purchasing a raffle ticket to help the students earn money needed to experience this valuable Mission experience. You may also purchase your square online at [www.notredamehighschool.org/bulldrop](http://www.notredamehighschool.org/bulldrop).

*"Those who have faith in Me will do the works I do, and far greater than these," Jesus tells His disciples. That's quite an assignment for us as Christian stewards!*

## American Heritage Girls "Reboot" and Informational Meeting

Looking for Faith, Service, and Fun for your daughter? You are invited to attend an American Heritage Girls (AHG) informational meeting on **Monday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m.** in the upper meeting room.

The American Heritage Girls program at St. Vincent's Parish and School is being reorganized. Your help is needed! AHG is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. Come learn more about AHG and plans for the 2023-24 school year.

Who should attend?

- Parents with daughters who will be in Kindergarten - Eighth Grade for the 2023-24 school year
- Those interested in being an AHG Troop Leader
- Those interested in being an AHG Assistant Leader (or co-leader)
- Those who may like to help/volunteer in other ways

If you are interested in being involved in an AHG Troop, but cannot attend the meeting, please contact Bunny Kohlfeld at 573-931-9353.

## Attention: Catholic Men

You are invited to the Southeast Missouri

**CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT**  
*Men Meeting Jesus*

**Tuesday, May 9 • 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Guardian Angel Parish • Oran, Missouri**

An evening of Adoration, Confession, and a Manly Meal with discussion  
To plan for food, please RSVP to [SEMOcatholicManNight@gmail.com](mailto:SEMOcatholicManNight@gmail.com),  
or "SEMO Catholic Man Night" on Facebook or text 573-275-5214.

**"PROCLAIM A HOLY FAST! CALL AN ASSEMBLY!  
GATHER THE ELDERS, ALL WHO DWELL IN THE LAND,  
TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, YOUR GOD,  
AND CRY OUT TO THE LORD!"  
JOEL 1:14**

*Parish Fast and Prayer*

**EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**ROSARY & CHAPLET FOLLOWING 5:15 P.M. MASS  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH • CAPE GIRARDEAU**

*Extend mercy towards others, so that there can be  
no one in need whom you meet without helping.*

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## May They Rest in Peace

Sympathy is extended to the families of:

**Wayne "Gus" Felty**, brother of Roy Felty; and  
**Diane Brown**, mother of Beverly Brown-Boehme.

*May they and all the souls of the faithful departed,  
 through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



### Diocesan Traveling Exhibit

## Miracles of the Eucharist Across the World

*Do you wonder if the bread and wine at Mass really becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus? Or is it a symbol? Is the Eucharist really Jesus?*

If you have these questions, you are invited to visit the Miracles of the Eucharist exhibit here at St. Vincent **May 15-21**. This exhibit was designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis and documents the many miracles of the Eucharist throughout the world and across the centuries. Ten large displays with color photos will describe just a few of the 140 Eucharistic miracles approved by the Vatican. Mark your calendars and bring your family and friends!

## Calling all ALPHA Alumni

The Hospitality Committee will host an ALPHA planning meeting on Monday, **May 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** in the upper meeting room. If you participated in the program in 2015, please consider helping to reignite this ministry at St. Vincent! The program will be discussed along with training opportunities, needed areas of support and why it is being brought back to the parish.

*"Alpha helps the parish foster personal encounters and relationships with Jesus through the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Often this experience acts as a catalyst for people to grow as disciples. Through the simple model used for Alpha for prayer ministry, people learn how to pray for one another and it becomes a normal part of life in the parish. In addition, they also begin to serve in other parish ministries."*  
 ([www.alpha.org/catholic](http://www.alpha.org/catholic))

Please RSVP and/or send questions to RaeAnne Kloss ([rakloss70@gmail.com](mailto:rakloss70@gmail.com) or 573-579-0284). Thank you for prayerfully considering participation!

## Eucharistic Minister Workshop

If you are currently an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (Eucharistic Minister) or would like to become one and have not attended one of the previous Eucharistic Minister workshops, please attend the final workshop on **Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.** which will be held in Church. Bishop Rice is requesting that all Eucharistic Ministers to go through a training workshop this Spring.

## Make This a Summer of Stewardship

As summer approaches, many families in the parish will be traveling for vacations and other reasons. During this time, you are encouraged to consider eGiving to ensure your support for the parish remains consistent even when you're away. By setting up eGiving through St. Vincent's online platform, Faith Direct, you can make a meaningful impact on the parish even while you're away. Getting started with eGiving is easy. Sign up by visiting [faith.direct/MO885](http://faith.direct/MO885) or call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757.

## • The Week Ahead •

### Monday, May 8

7:15 am St. Vincent de Paul Society  
 6:30 pm American Heritage Girls Info Mtg.

### Tuesday, May 9

10:00 am Mass at Heartland Care  
 6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study  
 6:30 pm Parish Pastoral Council

### Wednesday, May 10

8:00 am Ugly Quilt Ministry  
 (8:00 - 11:00 am)  
 9:00 am Mass at Veterans' Home  
 3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour  
 6:00 pm Parish School of Religion  
 6:00 pm Parish Fast and Prayer

### Thursday, May 11

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables  
 (9:00 - 11:00 am)  
 5:30 pm Centering Prayer  
 6:30 pm SVS Graduation Ceremony/Awards

### Friday, May 12

### Saturday, May 13

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables  
 (9:00 - 12:00 noon)  
 3:30 pm Reconciliation

### Sunday, May 14

9:00 am Children's Liturgy

*"If you know me, then you will also know my Father." Are you being called to do the work of the Lord as a priest, deacon, or consecrated religious? If you are considering that possibility, contact Father Alex at 573-335-7667 or email [fatheralex@svparish.com](mailto:fatheralex@svparish.com).*

### Readings - May 14, 2023

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17  
 1 Peter 3:15-18  
 John 14:15-21

### Collection - April 30, 2023

Collection	\$ 14,500.00
E-Tithing	\$ 337.00
Total	\$ 14,837.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 33,000.00
Difference (7-1-22 to 4-30-23)	\$ 76,297.40

*Thank you for being good  
 stewards of God's gifts!*



## • Contact Information •

### Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

### Father Alex Sutachan

Associate Pastor/ Chaplain of NDRHS  
fatheralex@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Deacon Robbie Huff

Superintendent of Schools /Diocesan Chancellor  
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau  
rhuff@dioscgo.org / 573-335-7667

### Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Coordinator of Stewardship and RCIA  
mkiblinger@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Deacon Thomas Schumer

Director of CCM, SEMO University  
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### Tiffany Brey

Youth Ministry Coordinator  
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### Pamela Chambliss

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### Beverly McMeel

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### Cheryl Oberhaus, Director of Parish Finance

coberhaus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

## St. Louis Catholic Marian Conference

The 24th Annual Saint Louis Marian Conference will be held **May 19-21, 2023**, at the Renaissance Hotel - St. Louis Airport. All are welcome! The conference includes dynamic days of inspiring talks, Holy Mass, Adoration, Confession, a large selection of vendors, beautiful music, and fellowship with Catholics from all over the country! Confirmed speakers include Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, Msgr. Eugene Morris, Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ, Fr. Bill Casey, CPM, Fr. Mark Wheelan, SOLT, Dr. Ray Guarendi, Jesse Romero, Patty Schneier, and emcee Zip Rzeppa. For registration or more information, please visit [www.stlmc.org](http://www.stlmc.org), phone 314-850-7718, or email [info@stlmc.org](mailto:info@stlmc.org).

## Garden Work Day

Please pray for good weather on **Saturday, May 20**, so the parish can have a good garden work day. Gather at 8:30 with coffee and donuts and work until 12:00 noon. Tasks include transplanting irises and bushes in various spots on campus. Come and have fun in the dirt. Bring the tool that you use best. Tillers could be helpful. For more info, contact Father Rick at the parish office (573-335-7667).



**SEMO Area Ultreyas** are normally held the third Saturday of each month. The next one will be held at St. Denis Parish, Benton, Missouri, on **Saturday, May 20, 2023**. Morning prayers begin at 9:00 a.m. in the church with grouping, refreshments, and socializing to follow. Come share the joy with fellow Cursillistas. De Colores!

## ND Tony Buehrle Alumni Golf Tournament

The Notre Dame Booster Club is hosting the Tony Buehrle Alumni Golf Tournament sponsored by Plaza Tire Service. The four-person scramble will take place at the Cape Girardeau Country Club on **Friday, June 16, 2023**. Flights are available at 7:30 a.m. and a 1:00 p.m. with lunch served at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$150 per player and includes cart, lunch, beverages, mulligans and skins. Registration is available online at [www.notredamehighschool.org/summeregolf](http://www.notredamehighschool.org/summeregolf). Participants must be 21 or older. Limited spots available!



## Benedictine Sisters Monastic Experience

The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Missouri, will host an in-person Monastic Experience **June 23-29, 2023**.

"It's a chance to experience the daily rhythm of our life where you can join us in singing the divine office, attend daily Mass, spend time in personal prayer and open your heart to God's call by learning about discernment and prayer," Vocation Director Sister Maria Victoria Cutaia, OSB said. "It's always a joy and an honor for me to journey with women who are discerning their path in life."

This opportunity is for single women, age 18-40, who are considering religious life. There is no cost to attend. For more information or to learn about upcoming Monastic Experiences, including virtual opportunities, please contact Sister Maria Victoria at [vocation@benedictinesisters.org](mailto:vocation@benedictinesisters.org), call 660-944-2221 ext. 127, or visit [www.BenedictineSisters.org](http://www.BenedictineSisters.org) and click on Vocations/Walk With Us.



**Congratulations to  
Chris and Lisa Gullette  
as they celebrate their  
25th Wedding Anniversary,  
to  
Ray and Donna Nedilnycky  
as they celebrate their  
40th Wedding Anniversary,  
and to  
Don and Sandra Hendricks  
as they celebrate their  
60th Wedding Anniversary!**

## Campus Planning Update #2

I hope you have had an opportunity to review the plans, displayed in the gathering area, for the parking lot where the old rectory was located (south of the church). The construction plans for the parking lot have recently been completed. This project will also include new lights for that area.

After the parking lot has been completed, we will begin moving to the DePaul Center (Old Notre Dame building). As many of you know, when Notre Dame Regional High School relocated to the west of town on Route K (two miles west of I-55), the old Notre Dame was left vacant. Through the generosity of Wanda Drury, the parish was able to purchase the Notre Dame property. This included the high school building, the old Notre Dame Convent and the parking lot on the north side of the high school.

The old Notre Dame Convent has been used for various purposes. Many different groups have been able to meet there. It has housed Maxine's Sharable Wearables for a number of years.

The DePaul Center has been used for many events and activities over the past 23 years. Immediately, St. Vincent de Paul School was able to take over the gym and the concession area. That space has served our grade school well. Most recently, the old bleachers have been replaced with new bleachers which are safer. (NB: If you want to buy some of the old bleacher boards, they can be purchased for \$20 per board.)

Below the gym area is the old Notre Dame cafeteria. The kitchen space for the cafeteria needs new appliances. With that upgrade it has the capacity to be a great kitchen. The Campus Planning Team is looking for people to help design this kitchen space. If you are interested, please contact me at [stvcapadre@gmail.com](mailto:stvcapadre@gmail.com) or at 573-335-7667.

In addition to the kitchen rehab, there is space for an Event Center. This Event Center will be on the lower level of the classroom area. It will have approximately 6,000 square feet of space and will be large enough to hold parish, regional, or Diocesan events. It could host wedding or anniversary receptions and could also house our famous Lenten Fish Fries. The space has much potential.

In a few weeks, another aspect of the rehab project will be highlighted regarding plans for the old Notre Dame building. Once again, these are only suggestions from the Campus Planning Team. In order for any of this to become a reality, the Parish Council, the Parish Finance Council, and you, as a parish member, have to reach a consensus to move forward. And, needless to say, moving forward will involve a Capital Campaign to raise significant funds for this project. So, let's pray to St. Joseph, the Master Carpenter, to guide us on the final Master Plan of this grand project! St. Joseph - Pray for Us!

~ Father Rick

## Today's Local Events

### Buffet Style Breakfast

**Sunday, May 7, 2023**

**7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

### St. Maurus Parish Hall

Biehle, Missouri

*Menu includes pancakes, ham, sausage patties, scrambled eggs, German fried potatoes, milk gravy, biscuits, homemade coffee cake*

Adults \$10, Children (6-12) \$5

Children (5 and under) free

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### Annual Spring Dinner

**Sunday, May 7, 2023**

**11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

### St. Anthony Parish

Glennon, Missouri

*Menu includes kettle beef, dumplings, dressing, trimmings, dessert and drinks*

Adults \$14, Children (6-12) \$8

Children (5 and under) free

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### May Procession

**Sunday, May 7, 2023**

**1:00 p.m.**

### Association of the Miraculous Medal

Perryville, Missouri

*Procession forms in front of Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church.*

*Pray the Rosary during the procession to the historic grotto on the Rosary Walk.*



## Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at [contactus@svparish](mailto:contactus@svparish) or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at <http://www.svcape.com/Parish/>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am new to Cape Girardeau.

☐ I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

☐ I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member.

☐ I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.

☐ I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion.

☐ Please change my address to the one shown above.

☐ I would like to sign up for Faith Direct.

## Celebrating the Sacraments Celebrando los Sacramentos

**Marriage:** Please contact the parish office at least **six months** in advance. (If you have been married before, an annulment may need to be done first.)

**Matrimonio:** Por favor comuníquese con la oficina parroquial por lo menos con **seis meses** de antelación. (Si usted ha estado casado antes, una anulación del matrimonio puede necesitar ser hecha primero.)

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**Baptism:** Your family needs to be registered in the parish for three months prior to the baptism. It is necessary to schedule baptismal preparation classes six weeks prior to your child's baptism. Taking the baptism class prior to birth is encouraged! Contact Deacon Mark at the parish office (573-335-7667).

**Bautismo:** Es un requisito ser inscritos en la parroquia por lo menos 3 meses antes de bautizar. También los padres tienen que celebrar la santa misa cada fin de semana. La clase de preparación para el bautismo para padres y padrinos es cada último lunes del mes. Favor de comunicarse con Padre Rick una semana antes al 573-335-7667.

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**Anointing of the Sick:** If you are going to the hospital for a planned surgery, please call the parish office so this Sacrament can be celebrated with you.

**Unción de los enfermos:** Si usted va al hospital para una cirugía planificada, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para que este Sacramento pueda ser celebrado con usted.

## Employment Opportunities

**Part-time Technology Teacher** - St. Vincent de Paul School is currently accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year for a part-time Technology Teacher. Interested applicants may call the school office at 573-334-9594 or by email [kglastetter@svcape.edu](mailto:kglastetter@svcape.edu) to receive an application.

**Summer Care Staff** - St. Vincent de Paul Summer Care is looking for several individuals to join their staff from late May until the first week of August. Must be 18 years of age or older. Virtus training is required. For more info, please contact the school office or email [2023svssummer@gmail.com](mailto:2023svssummer@gmail.com).

**Part-time Custodian** - Notre Dame Regional High School is seeking a dedicated individual to join their custodial team. The custodian is responsible for daily routine maintenance. This part time position is for afternoon and early evening hours. To apply for this position, please contact Scott Wilson at 573-335-6772, ext. 415. Find a complete job listing online at [www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings](http://www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings).

**Swimming Coach** - Notre Dame Regional High School is seeking applications for a head boys and head girls swimming coach. Boys' swim season is in the fall and girls' swim season is in the winter. Preference would be given to practicing Catholics. Interested candidates should send their resume, cover letter, and a list of references to [jeffgraviett@notredamecape.org](mailto:jeffgraviett@notredamecape.org). Application deadline is May 12, 2023.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. The next weekend experiences will take place on **August 4 - 6, 2023, September 29 - October 1, 2023, and December 1 - 3, 2023**, in St. Peters, Missouri. Sign-up now! For more information or to apply, go to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org), or call Terry and Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317.

## Holy Land Pilgrimage

Join an unforgettable journey of faith and hope during an **August 6 - 15, 2023**, Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This trip will be led by Father Antony Thekkanath, VC, who is pastor at St. John Church in Leopold. The tour will include a trip to Mount Tabor to visit the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus, boat ride across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, Cana of Galilee, Nazareth, Yardenit, Beit Shean, Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, Mount Zion, Bethany, Bethlehem, Emmaus, Jericho, the Dead Sea and much more! The days will include daily Mass at many sites that were significant in Jesus' life and countless opportunities to contemplate the beginning of Christian faith. Itineraries can be found on the St. John Parish website at [www.stjohnchurchleopold.com](http://www.stjohnchurchleopold.com). If you have questions, please contact Father Antony by emailing [thekkanathvc@gmail.com](mailto:thekkanathvc@gmail.com) or by calling the rectory at 573-238-3300, ext. 2.



## This Week at Home

### God First

**Monday, May 8**

Our message for today is captured in the response to Psalm 115, “Not to us, LORD, not to us / but to your name give the glory” (115:1). Across all time people fall into the trap of worshipping false gods and the temptation has only grown with the emergence of social media and celebrity. The first commandment that God gave so long ago spells it out clearly. The first disciples and all those who follow are called to point the way to the Triune God. Attend to how you spend your time today and where you place your energy: Who or what do you place first in your life? If not God, is it time for realignment? *Today’s readings: Acts 14:5-18; Psalm 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; John 14:21-26.*

### Be Persistent

**Tuesday, May 9**

Paul and Barnabas demonstrate unstoppable persistence in their single-focused mission to bring the good news to all who will listen. They tenaciously give witness to all the ways God has accompanied and supported them through trials and tests. Our primary call as baptized Christians is to live in such a way that we are constantly giving glory to God. Small gestures count as much as large gestures. How do you give glory to God in the small details of your day? *Today’s readings: Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab 21; John 14:27-31a.*

### Remain

**Wednesday, May 10**

God deeply desires to be close to us. Jesus reveals this desire when he proclaims that he is the vine and we are the branches. Read John 15:1-8 carefully and count how many times Jesus uses the word *remain*. Jesus ardently implores his disciples and all of us to remain close to him. We can see the closeness of God in the new spring growth of branches, leaves, and flower buds. Jesus uses the familiar image of the vine and the branches to help us visually comprehend the closeness he desires. He is the vine; we are the branches. Look for the signs of God in creation. Can you see them? *Today’s readings: Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; John 15:1-8.*

### Love and Joy

**Thursday, May 11**

Jesus’ words to his disciples read like a Christmas card. He encourages them to know and feel the love of God that he knows with his Father. Place yourself in the room with the disciples. Jesus wishes this knowledge of love for each of us. Receive it as a gift and allow it to unwrap great joy in your heart. Follow his example and tell someone you love them today. *Today’s readings: Acts 15:7-21; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; John 15:9-11.*

### Love One Another

**Friday, May 12**

Jesus’ words move from invitatory to commanding. In this next passage from John’s Gospel he tells the disciples straight out, “This is my commandment: love one another” (John 15:12). Parents say it to their children. Marriage counselors say it to husbands and wives. Pastors say it to parishioners. We are called to stick together as a family with love as the binding agent. Tack the commandment on a note card where you will see it over and over again. *Today’s readings: Acts 15:22-31; Psalm 57:8-9, 10 and 12; John 15:12-17.*

### Called and Chosen

**Saturday, May 13**

When walking as a disciple feels hard, remember the assurances Jesus offered to his followers in John 15:19, “I have chosen you.” God calls and chooses us to be joyful and courageous witnesses in the communities where we are planted. We are not alone; God walks with us. Look for an opportunity to share your faith with someone new today. *Today’s readings: Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5; John 15:18-21.*

**Sunday, May 7**

### The Way, The Truth, The Life

*Today’s readings: Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12.*

When we read the words of Jesus with two thousand years of salvation history in our rearview mirror, it all seems clear. Jesus repeatedly tells the disciples exactly who he is, who sent him, and where he is going. He promises his disciples, whom he loved with human and divine power, that they will remain close for all eternity. Human death will not destroy the bonds of love and relationship.

This promise, first spoken to the disciples shortly after Jesus washed their feet, extends to believers across the generations as well. He offers a compass so that we can always stay close. “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). There it is: we remain close to God by remaining close to Jesus. Last Sunday, Jesus told us that he is the gate. Today he tells us he is the “way” and the “truth” and the “life.” Follow his way. Believe his truth. And you will have life eternal.

At that moment of revelation, the disciples responded with questions and confusion. But with the advantage of knowing the full story, we can proceed with confidence, faith, and trust. In the opening prayer for Mass today, we ask God to “constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us” that we baptized Christians may “bear much fruit” in our lives and eventually “come to the joys of life eternal.” Persevere in following the footsteps of Jesus, confident they lead to eternal joy with him.

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